



DUCK ZONING EVALUATION

HUNTER INPUT RESULTS

Andy Raedeke
David Graber

Creating zones for duck seasons was first implemented within Missouri in 1977. By 1991, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offered standardized criteria for selecting zones and split seasons because of frequent requests for zone boundary changes in Missouri and other states. The criteria included the option to review season structure and zone boundaries every five years (e.g., season structure and zone boundaries established in 2006 must remain in place through 2010). The available choices allow for (1) a statewide season consisting of one, two, or three segments and no zones; (2) a split season in two zones; or (3) three zones with no split seasons. Missouri has opted for three zones and no splits since 1991, with slight modifications to zone boundaries in 2001. This report summarizes the results of hunter input, and discusses the trade-offs involved with proposed changes to duck season structure.

To assess hunter opinions about season structure and zone boundaries, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) conducted a survey during 2004 of 10,000 randomly-selected migratory bird permit holders. Missouri Department of Conservation wetland managers and conservation agents were asked what they had been hearing from hunters in their respective regions. We surveyed Ducks Unlimited members at their state convention and met with the Missouri Waterfowl Association Board of Directors to obtain their input on the process of determining season structure and zone boundaries. Nine workshops were held during March and April, 2006 to provide a forum for hunters to convey their preferences about Missouri's season structure for 2006-2010 (Table 1). Information about long-term migration, weather, and duck harvest, as well as the opinion survey results, were presented at these workshops. Participants completed individual surveys reflecting their preferences for season dates and zone boundaries. Additionally, small working groups (3-10 people) at the workshops developed recommendations. The following report compares results from the statewide opinion survey to the individual surveys and small group surveys completed at the public workshops. Results presented as "Statewide Survey" are from the 2004 Waterfowl Attitude Survey. Results from the workshops are presented by workshop location (e.g. St. Louis, Jackson, Lamar, etc.) and by region most hunted (e.g. North, Southeast, Southwest, etc.). Regions are shown in figure 1. Final recommendations for the 2006-2010 season structure will be based on public input and information about duck harvest, weather, and habitat conditions. Input from hunters who review this report will also be considered during development of final recommendations.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of creating duck zones: The purpose of creating duck zones is to establish

the best season dates for private and public land within a large geographic region. To the degree possible, season dates are designed to accommodate different habitats, hunting styles, and species hunted within a given area. The reality of widely separated hunting locations (e.g. Southwest Missouri and the Bootheel) located within the same zone make it difficult to provide optimum dates for any particular location. The purpose of zoning is not to extend the season for hunters who travel, although that is an option for hunters who choose to do so. The result is that season dates are rarely ideal for hunters throughout a zone, but more often represent a compromise between regions within a zone. Regardless of the final recommendation for 2006-2010, concerns about duck season dates will continue to be sources of contention among hunters because they hunt in different regions of the state, for different species, and in different habitats.

Recognizing tradeoffs: Workshop participants focused on alternatives that would provide the best opportunity in their region. While considering zone changes, it is evident that changes in one region will affect other regions as well. Variation in weather, habitat, and hunter preferences within zones precludes the possibility of establishing season dates that will satisfy all hunters within a particular zone. Also, changes in zone boundaries that will accommodate perceived hunter preferences in a particular location can potentially reduce flexibility to respond to changes in hunter preferences throughout the zone during a five-year period.

Short versus long seasons: The need to consider zoning and split seasons was stressed in the context of future seasons that could range from 30 to 60 days in length. This is difficult because recent experience has involved long seasons, extended hunting opportunity, and mild weather.

Avid and novice duck hunters: Perspectives from both avid (defined as those who hunted greater than 10 times per year) and casual (defined as those who hunted less than 10 times per year) hunters about preferred seasons must be considered. In this regard, workshop participation was not representative of Missouri duck hunters as a whole. More than 70% of workshop participants hunted greater than 10 days in 2005-06 (Table 1), as compared to slightly more than 42% of all Missouri duck hunters. Because of the overwhelming interest by avid hunters and the predominant desire for mallard hunting, greater weight will continue to be placed on late season preferences. However, today's novice hunters may be an important part of future support for wetland and waterfowl conservation. Their hunting preferences will also be considered in the final recommendation.

Workshop Locations: Workshop locations were determined by consultation with regional Department staff and were generally located near existing zone boundaries (areas where questions had arisen in recent years about zones and season dates). Two additional workshops were added, one in Chillicothe and the other in Portageville, to address more specific concerns about season dates as opposed to zone boundaries.

Complex zone lines: There is a general desire for straight boundaries on major roadways which appear to evenly partition the state for duck hunting. When possible, these simple, easily understood regulations are most desirable. However, the diversity of habitat types, freeze-up timing, precipitation patterns, and associated hunter preferences

account for the evolving complexity of duck season structure and zone boundary configurations.

Extended hunting opportunity: Hunters frequently take advantage of hunting in another zone after the season closes in their preferred zone. Although this happens to some degree by establishing different season timing through zones or split seasons, our (MDC) emphasis will be on establishing the best season for each region of Missouri.

Role of public areas: Managed state, federal, and private wetlands provide essential food, water, and refuge for migrating waterbirds. This is important in Missouri because nearly 90% of the historic wetland habitat base has been lost. Duck hunting is an important and desirable byproduct of these managed areas. Department areas account for only about 15% of each year's hunting opportunity and harvest; thus, considering the location of zone boundaries relative to the distribution of public areas can be easily overemphasized from the standpoint of hunting opportunity. Our recommendation for zoning will be based on the best season for each habitat complex throughout a region rather than a desire to focus on public lands only in each zone.

HUNTER INPUT RESULTS

Tables 1-3 compare the characteristics of 2006 workshop participants to 2004 statewide survey respondents. Workshop participants hunted more often and had more hunting experience than the general hunting public. Most workshop participants also hunted shallow water. Participants at the workshops in Lamar, Springfield, and Columbia expressed the least amount of satisfaction with season dates, and participants at Jackson and Columbia expressed the least amount of satisfaction with zone boundaries (Table 2).

Several specific suggestions were proposed during the zoning workshops. However, there was no unanimous recommendation among the 57 small working groups. Often, small groups could not even reach consensus. The number of small groups preferring various zone and season date options is summarized in tables 8-11. Detailed analysis of preferred options recommended by the small groups is provided in Tables 12-20. Following is a review of the most often cited recommendations:

Season structure

Statewide survey results indicate that the current 3-zone structure is most preferred. Participants in the public workshops shared this view with 75% of individual participants, along with 54 of the 57 groups indicating a preference for three zones and no split seasons (Tables 2 and 11). A few small groups recommended a split season during either a 45- or 30-day season. This option is not possible because the selected season structure must remain in place for the next five years, regardless of season length.

Season date/zone boundary combinations

North Zone Considerations in West Missouri

Background: North Zone hunters in Central Missouri have season date preferences that are better matched with the Middle Zone rather than the North Zone. Just over 50% of

statewide survey respondents and 75% of workshop participants who hunt in Central Missouri prefer the season to open at least one week later than the present season opening date in the North Zone. This desire for later seasons appears to have increased over the last five years and will likely continue to increase if duck use patterns along the Missouri River and Grand Pass remain similar to the last five years.

Options and Potential Trade-Offs: Workshop participants proposed five alternatives to address the desire for later seasons. The most dramatic option was to shift the North Zone boundary north to Highway 36. Other options in order of most impact to least impact) included 1) delaying the opening of the North Zone by a week; 2) shifting the boundary north to Highway 24; 3) moving the boundary to the north bank of the Missouri River; and 4) changing the boundary to Interstate Highway 70. An expansion of the Middle Zone to the north may result in an additional challenge of setting Middle Zone dates to match hunter preferences in both the northern and southern portions of this zone.

Provide later season dates in the North Zone: This option would accommodate hunters in Central Missouri, but it would be at the expense of the remainder of the North Zone. A later season in the North Zone would likely result in a loss of hunting opportunity due to freeze-up in much of the North Zone, especially in Northwest Missouri where temperatures are typically the coldest in the state.

North Zone boundary moved to Highway 36: Three small groups recommended this zone boundary change. This recommendation stems from a desire for later season opportunity north of the current boundary. Some groups wanted the boundary closer to their hunting locations to allow them to hunt either side of the line, in effect, increasing their season length. With the exception of Thomas Hill Reservoir, Mark Twain Reservoir, and the Missouri River, most hunting in this potentially affected region takes place in shallow water. This change would produce less predictable late-season opportunity at the expense of early season opportunity during “flight days” and more predictable small dabbling hunting during early season.

Inclusion of Missouri River (Kansas City to Mid-Missouri) in the Middle Zone: Four small groups offered recommendations that would put the Missouri River in the Middle Zone. One proposal would define the North Zone boundary west of Columbia as the north bank (levee or high water mark) of the Missouri River. This option would put the entire Missouri River and shallow water habitat on the south side of the river in the Middle Zone. This option would include Grand Pass CA, Perry CA, and a small number of WRP wetlands located along the Blackwater and Lamine rivers in the Middle Zone. Most WRP wetlands in the Missouri River floodplain are located on the north side of the river and would remain in the North Zone. If implemented from the highway 54 bridge near Jefferson City, this option would leave Eagle Bluffs CA in the North Zone. However, if implemented at the I-70 bridge west of Columbia, Eagle Bluffs and the Missouri River bottoms south of I-70 would be moved to the Middle Zone along with the Missouri River upstream from the I-70 bridge. This boundary would provide the most late season hunting opportunity on the Missouri River with the least amount of impact on shallow water floodplain habitat. This option may not have been strongly considered due

to the tradition of highways being used as zone boundary lines since 1977, and potential enforcement issues associated with a river being used as a zone boundary. However, this option appears to have merit and enforcement issues could be minimized with appropriate wording of the regulation and public education.

The second recommendation was to move the North/Middle Zone boundary north to highway 24 from Hannibal to Carrollton, highway 10 to highway 13, north on highway 13 to 116 then west on 116 to the Kansas line. This option would put a substantial amount of public and private shallow water habitat in the Middle Zone along with Smithville Reservoir, Mark Twain Reservoir, the Missouri River, and the Mississippi River below Hannibal. The following public areas would be affected: Grand Pass, Eagle Bluffs, Ted Shanks, B.K. Leach, and the Ralph and Martha Perry Memorial CA.

Move North Zone Boundary to I-70: Only one small group recommended this option; however, 35% of workshop participants who hunted in Central Missouri preferred this alternative, compared to 32% of workshop participants who preferred the current boundary. This option would accommodate hunters' desires for a straight, well-defined boundary. Of all the potential North Zone changes, this option would have the least impact on traditional hunting styles yet would accommodate requested changes in Central Missouri for later season dates. It would benefit Missouri River hunters between Jefferson City and Columbia, but would not provide later hunting for the remainder of the Missouri River in the North Zone. Eagle Bluffs CA, Perry CA, and a small number of private and public shallow water wetlands along the Blackwater and Lamine rivers would be affected. Hunters using these shallow water habitats could experience good late season mallard hunting during mild years, but they could also lose days to freeze-up. Opportunity for early season migrants such as green-winged teal, wood ducks, gadwalls and pintail would be sacrificed. This change may result in more crowding at Grand Pass CA during the first week of the season and at Eagle Bluffs during the last week of the season, since they would be in different zones. It also could create more crowding on the stretch of Missouri River that would now be in the Middle Zone during the last week of the season.

North Zone Considerations in East Missouri

Background: The North Zone was modified in 2001 to include St. Charles County in the Middle Zone. Preferences for somewhat later season dates were the basis for this recommendation. Workshop and survey results indicate that St. Charles County hunters are currently satisfied with season dates and zone boundaries. Less than 25% of avid hunters, casual hunters, and workshop participants indicated they were dissatisfied with season dates and zone boundaries.

Move the Zone back to I-70: Two groups at the St. Louis workshop recommended moving the zone boundary back to I-70 to reduce the risk of losing days to freeze-up and to have a straight, well-defined zone boundary. Four groups recommended leaving the current zone boundary in place.

South Zone Considerations in Southwest Missouri

Background: In 1991, a change in the South Zone boundary was made to accommodate early season hunting opportunity in Barton County (Middle Zone) yet retain late season hunting opportunity on Stockton and Pomme De Terre Reservoirs and Spring River. In 2001, the boundary was moved back to highway 54 in response to hunter input at the Carthage and Lamar zoning workshops. Consensus has not been achieved, however, and hunters who felt disenfranchised during the past 5 years would like to see earlier season dates or a return to the boundary that was in place during 1991-2000. At Springfield and Lamar, only 30 and 41 percent of workshop participants were satisfied with season dates, respectively. None of the workshop participants were satisfied with the season dates in Southwest Missouri and only 29% were satisfied with season dates on the White River Lakes. Unfortunately, season date preferences in Barton County and in Southwest Missouri do not match recent Middle or South Zone dates. Recent South Zone dates are later and Middle Zone dates are earlier than preferences expressed by hunters in these locations.

Southwest Zone boundary in place 5 years ago: Although only 1 of the 4 small groups at Springfield recommended a return to the zone boundary of 5 years ago, all of the small groups recommended earlier season dates than have been in effect in the South Zone during recent years. At Lamar, only 1 of the 4 small groups reached consensus in recommending a change back to the previous boundary, but the remaining groups expressed a desire for earlier season dates in the South Zone.

South Zone Considerations in Southeast Missouri

Background: The current South Zone boundary in Southeast Missouri has been in place since 1986. Its location provides shallow water hunters in Southeast Missouri with earlier season dates to minimize the risk of freezing up during the season, while providing Bootheel hunters the opportunity to hunt late when habitat conditions usually are better along the Mississippi River and St. Francis River. According to the statewide survey, Southeast Missouri hunters, on average, would like a 60-day season to open around November 12, which is 2 weeks earlier than the date preferred by Bootheel hunters. However, there is little consensus with nearly equal percentages preferring a 60-day season to open anywhere from November 5 through December 1. Avid hunters in Southeast Missouri appear to be the most dissatisfied with season dates with 55% expressing dissatisfaction compared to 38% of workshop participants and 23% of casual hunters (Table 3). Of anywhere in the state, hunters in the Bootheel are in the most agreement of about season dates. They prefer the season to open around November 26 or December 1 (Table 4).

Shift South Zone boundary to Highway 72, 34, or 60: Eleven out of 23 small groups at Dexter and Jackson recommended leaving the current zone boundary in place. The remaining groups expressed little consensus for preferred change. Four of the 10 small groups at Jackson recommended highway 72 and three groups were unable to reach

consensus. At Dexter, 2 groups recommended highway 60, 2 recommended highway 34, and one group recommended highway 25. In the statewide survey, 37% of Southeast Missouri hunters favored the current zone boundary and nearly equal percentages favored highway 60 (18%), highway 34 (19%), and highway 72 (24%). Local Missouri Department of Conservation Wildlife and Protection staff noted that it appears fewer hunters in Southeast Missouri desire a move to the South Zone compared to five years ago.

The motives for change are the most complex in Southeast with many small groups citing reasons that are inconsistent with the intent of making changes. For example, 8 groups noted they wanted a change, at least in part, to either maximize hunting opportunity in two zones, or to reduce the amount of crowding at public areas. As stated earlier in this report, our intent is to establish zones that provide the best seasons for public and private land and not to use zone boundaries to extend the season for hunters willing to travel. Some workshop participants recommended including Duck Creek and Otter Slough CAs in the South Zone; others preferred to have only Otter Slough in the South Zone. The basis of one group's recommendation was to move the boundary to highway 72 was to include Clearwater Reservoir in the South Zone. The challenge with any change in zone boundaries is that it would result in a season two weeks later than most hunters prefer.

Shift of the South Zone boundary from I-55 to Highway 25: A recommendation to shift the South zone boundary from I-55 westward to Highway 25 is based on the perception that duck use east of highway 25 occurs somewhat later than to the west. This option deserves further consideration by a broader range of hunters in southeast Missouri. It was a new proposal compared with others that have been suggested, and therefore had little consideration from other groups in the region.

CONCLUSIONS

Given the variety of zone boundary and season date recommendations, it soon becomes apparent that there is not a suite of zoning or split season recommendations that will accommodate all Missouri hunters. Moving the Middle Zone season dates a week later and shifting the zone boundary back to its previous location in Southwest Missouri would accommodate hunters in Southeast Missouri and Southwest Missouri. It would also satisfy Truman Reservoir hunters who hunt deep water. However, it would likely be later than preferred by some hunters in St. Charles County. It also would be later than desired by hunters in Central Missouri if they were included in the Middle Zone. If Middle Zone dates remain unchanged and the North/Middle Zone line is changed to accommodate Central Missouri hunters it will be difficult to change season dates in the future to accommodate Southeast Missouri hunters. We will base a final proposal for 2006-2010 on results from the workshops, statewide surveys and other sources of information about hunter attitudes, duck harvest, weather, and habitat conditions.

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Table 1. Duck zoning workshops – Spring 2006: Hunting activity/experience from individual surveys at duck zoning workshops and the 2004 statewide survey.

Location	Date (# individuals sampled or attending)	% Hunters by days hunted			% individuals who hunted before 1994	% Hunters by zone			% Hunters by type of habitat hunted			
		1-10 days	11-20 days	>20 days		North Zone	Middle Zone	South Zone	Mostly shallow water	Mostly deep water	Equal shallow and deep water	Other
Statewide Survey	2004 (2378)	58	29	13	68	72	75	36	NA	NA	NA	NA
Columbia	13 Mar(34)	22	34	44	81	92	42	17	78	6	14	22
Jackson	15 Mar(65)	24	29	48	73	4	88	54	84	4	9	9
Dexter	16 Mar(69)	15	27	58	78	1	91	47	88	6	3	6
St. Louis	23 Mar(89)	20	31	49	82	60	80	12	81	9	9	9
Lake Ozark	25 Mar(47)	30	42	28	74	60	66	28	68	13	28	28
Springfield	28 Mar(23)	33	13	54	75	4	63	96	54	29	25	29
Lamar	29 Mar(20)	55	25	20	86	5	55	86	77	9	9	14
Kansas City	30 Mar(43)	14	31	54	78	69	89	6	89	0	14	19
Chillicothe	17 Apr (16)	7	27	67	94	100	6	0	63	6	13	38
Portageville	20 Apr (12)	8	0	92	67	8	58	100	83	0	17	17

Table 2. Duck zoning workshops – Spring 2006: Season structure preferences and satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries from individual surveys at duck zoning workshops and from the 2004 statewide survey (includes casual and avid duck hunters*).

	# Individuals sampled or attending	% Hunters by preferred duck season structure					% Hunters satisfied with:		*Casual duck hunters are defined as those who hunt between 1-10 days; avid duck hunters are defined as those who hunt more than 10 days.
		3 zones (current structure)	2 zones - split season	Statewide – no zones and 3 segments	Other	No opinion	Zone boundaries	Season dates	
Statewide Survey									
<i>North Zone</i>									
Casual*	562	39	12	4	21	23	51	50	
Avid*	458	50	16	5	19	9	62	54	
<i>Middle Zone</i>									
Casual	567	40	11	5	18	26	50	49	
Avid	414	55	18	4	14	10	59	52	
<i>South Zone</i>									
Casual	117	37	12	3	18	30	40	39	
Avid	89	58	15	1	17	9	47	49	
Workshops									
Columbia	34	60	34	3	0	3	44	42	
Jackson	65	81	13	5	0	2	45	50	
Dexter	69	90	3	3	2	2	61	57	
St. Louis	89	55	24	4	13	3	60	64	
Lake Ozark	47	73	14	5	9	0	74	69	
Springfield	23	71	17	13	0	0	50	30	
Lamar	20	82	0	14	5	0	57	41	
Kansas City	43	79	9	3	6	3	58	75	
Chillicothe	16	80	20	0	0	0	75	67	
Portageville	12	100	0	0	0	0	83	83	

Table 3. Satisfaction with zone boundaries and season dates by region (statewide survey in normal font, individual surveys from workshops in **bold font**).

Region most hunted	Type of survey		% Hunters - satisfaction level with zone boundaries			% Hunters - satisfaction level with season dates			
		N	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	
North	Casual*	238	55	37	7	51	31	18	* Casual duck hunters are defined as those who hunt between 1-10 days; avid duck hunters are defined as those who hunt more than 10 days.
	Avid*	196	68	26	6	61	13	26	
	Workshops	38	76	16	8	68	5	27	
Central	Casual	186	48	46	5	50	30	20	
	Avid	144	58	33	10	50	15	34	
	Workshops	45	47	22	31	47	16	38	
Upper Mississippi	Casual	127	49	46	5	47	38	16	
	Avid	102	57	34	9	48	18	34	
	Workshops	27	52	7	41	70	7	22	
St. Charles Co.	Casual	151	50	45	5	49	31	20	
	Avid	114	64	31	5	61	16	23	
	Workshops	31	71	6	23	73	10	17	
Other Middle	Casual	315	54	42	4	52	29	19	
	Avid	209	67	20	13	59	15	26	
	Workshops	57	72	12	16	74	4	22	
Southeast	Casual	119	41	43	16	45	32	23	
	Avid	98	38	28	35	26	19	55	
	Workshops	122	48	17	34	47	15	38	
Bootheel	Casual	65	29	63	8	32	40	28	
	Avid	63	37	41	22	45	17	38	
	Workshops	30	80	13	7	83	3	13	
Barton Co.	Casual	10	50	40	10	40	20	40	
	Avid	5	60	40	0	60	0	40	
	Workshops	14	86	14	0	43	14	43	
Southwest	Casual	18	56	44	0	39	28	33	
	Avid	8	75	25	0	75	13	13	
	Workshops	11	0	18	82	0	18	82	
Other South	Casual	32	50	41	9	48	27	24	
	Avid	26	65	31	4	48	22	30	
	Workshops	14	43	21	36	29	7	64	

Table 4. Mean opening day preference for a 60-day season, mean week most preferred to hunt, and distribution of 60-day season date preferences.

	N	Mean <u>day</u> preferred for opening	Mean <u>week</u> preferred to hunt	% Hunters by preferred 60-day season dates									
				10/1- 11/29	10/8- 12/6	10/15- 12/13	10/22- 12/20	10/29- 12/27	11/5- 1/3	11/12- 1/10	11/19- 1/17	11/26- 1/24	12/1- 1/29
Statewide Survey Results by Zone													
North Zone													
Casual*	475	Oct 29	Nov 3	5	4	9	15	24**	20	7	7	5	4
Avid*	441	Oct 29	Nov 3	3	3	7	12	31	21	11	5	4	4
Middle Zone													
Casual	470	Nov 5	Nov 4	3	3	5	8	21	19	13	11	7	10
Avid	398	Nov 5	Nov 4	2	1	2	6	16	28	18	14	7	7
South Zone													
Casual	97	Nov 19	Dec 3	1	1	2	1	4	9	4	25	22	31
Avid	85	Nov 26	Dec 3	0	0	0	0	6	6	9	8	26	45
Statewide Survey Results (normal font) and Workshop Individual Survey Results (bold font) by Region.													
North	425	Oct 29	Nov 3	7	4	7	18	29	18	6	4	3	3
	35	Oct 29	Nov 3	0	0	6	9	49	23	11	3	0	0
Central	325	Nov 5	Nov 4	4	2	9	10	24	20	10	8	5	8
	44	Nov 5	Nov 4	0	0	5	0	20	39	34	0	0	2
Upper Mississippi	217	Oct 29	Nov 3	3	5	8	12	26	23	12	4	5	2
	26	Nov 5	Nov 4	4	0	4	4	27	31	12	15	0	4
St. Charles Co.	259	Nov 5	Nov 3	5	3	4	11	23	25	14	7	4	3
	27	Nov 5	Nov 4	0	0	0	11	19	44	19	7	0	0
Other Middle	493	Nov 5	Nov 4	2	3	6	7	19	24	14	11	6	8
	58	Nov 5	Dec 1	0	2	3	5	17	31	12	12	16	2
Southeast	221	Nov 12	Dec 1	1	<1	1	4	11	19	15	19	22	16
	117	Nov 12	Dec 1	0	0	0	0	4	36	27	14	12	7
Bootheel	129	Nov 26	Dec 3	0	1	0	0	3	7	6	13	24	46
	27	Nov 26	Dec 3	0	0	0	0	4	15	0	4	19	59
Barton Co.	15	Nov 19	Dec 2	0	7	0	7	7	0	7	13	40	20
	14	Nov 19	Dec 2	0	0	0	0	0	7	36	21	0	36
Southwest	27	Nov 19	Dec 2	0	0	4	0	15	4	7	26	33	11
	10	Nov 5	Nov 3	0	0	0	10	10	60	10	0	0	10
Other South	58	Nov 19	Dec 2	2	0	3	2	7	14	12	19	7	34
	14	Nov 12	Nov 4	0	0	0	0	14	7	29	36	0	14

*Casual duck hunters are defined as those who hunt between 1-10 days; avid duck hunters are defined as those who hunt more than 10 days.

**Shading indicates the most preferred 60-day season for each category of hunter.

Table 5. Mean opening day preference for a 45-day season, mean week most preferred to hunt, and distribution of 45-day season date preferences.

	N	Mean day preferred for opening	Mean week preferred to hunt	% Hunters by preferred 45-day season dates											
				10/1- 11/14	10/8- 11/21	10/15- 11/28	10/22- 12/5	10/29- 12/12	11/5- 12/19	11/12- 12/26	11/19- 1/2	11/26- -1/9	12/3- 1/16	12/10- -1/23	12/17- -1/29
Statewide Survey Results by Zone															
North Zone															
Casual*	460	Nov 5	Nov 3	2	3	6	11	16	22**	16	11	8	3	1	2
Avid*	424	Nov 5	Nov 3	1	1	4	10	14	23	20	12	8	4	1	2
Middle Zone															
Casual	456	Nov 12	Nov 4	2	1	3	4	12	19	18	16	10	6	4	6
Avid	379	Nov 12	Nov 4	1	1	1	4	11	16	21	20	12	5	4	5
South Zone															
Casual	93	Nov 26	Dec 3	1	1	1	2	1	5	3	18	15	13	14	25
Avid	79	Dec 3	Dec 3	0	0	0	1	4	5	6	4	15	9	18	38
Statewide Survey Results (normal font) and Workshop Individual Survey Results (bold font) by Region															
North	411	Nov 5	Nov 3	3	2	7	13	20	21	18	8	6	1	1	1
	34	Nov 5	Nov 3	0	3	3	3	15	44	26	6	0	0	0	0
Central	317	Nov 12	Nov 4	<1	2	6	9	9	23	18	13	8	6	2	4
	39	Nov 12	Nov 4	0	0	3	0	0	23	44	21	8	3	0	0
Upper Mississippi	208	Nov 5	Nov 3	1	4	6	9	14	22	18	13	8	3	1	<1
	23	Nov 12	Nov 4	0	4	0	0	22	17	30	9	13	4	0	0
St. Charles Co.	248	Nov 12	Nov 3	2	2	5	5	13	25	21	14	8	2	2	2
	26	Nov 12	Nov 4	0	0	0	4	8	38	23	19	4	4	0	0
Upper Middle	474	Nov 12	Nov 4	1	1	2	5	13	18	18	17	11	5	3	5
	55	Nov 12	Dec 1	0	0	0	7	9	27	13	20	11	11	2	0
Southeast	221	Nov 19	Dec 1	<1	0	<1	3	7	14	17	20	15	9	5	10
	118	Nov 19	Dec 1	0	0	0	0	1	14	36	23	14	3	8	3
Bootheel	123	Dec 3	Dec 3	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	11	13	14	11	41
	27	Dec 3	Dec 3	0	0	0	0	0	4	15	4	4	19	7	48
Barton Co.	14	Nov 26	Dec 2	0	7	0	0	0	14	7	0	14	7	29	21
	14	Dec 3	Dec 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	29	14	7	21
Southwest	26	Nov 26	Dec 2	0	0	0	4	0	8	8	19	23	8	23	8
	10	Nov 12	Nov 3	0	0	0	0	10	20	40	20	0	0	0	10
Other South	56	Nov 26	Dec 2	2	0	4	4	7	11	9	13	9	7	20	16
	14	Nov 19	Nov 4	0	0	0	0	0	21	14	36	0	21	7	0

*Casual duck hunters are defined as those who hunt between 1-10 days; avid duck hunters are defined as those who hunt more than 10 days.

**Shading indicates the most preferred 45-day season for each category of hunter.

Table 6. Mean opening day preference for a 30-day season, mean week most preferred to hunt, and distribution of 30-day season date preferences.

	N	Mean <u>day</u> preferred for opening	Mean <u>week</u> preferred to hunt	% Hunters - prefer 30-day season open before 10/15	% Hunters by preferred 30-day season dates										
					10/15- 11/13	10/22- 11/20	10/29- 11/27	11/5- 12/4	11/12- 12/11	11/19- 12/18	11/26- 12/25	12/3- 1/1	12/10 -1/8	12/17 -1/15	12/24- 1/22
Statewide Survey Results by Zone															
North Zone															
Casual*	455	Nov 12	Nov 3	3	3	8	12	18**	15	15	13	5	3	3	2
Avid*	421	Nov 12	Nov 3	2	1	5	11	17	17	15	16	7	3	2	2
Middle Zone															
Casual	451	Nov 19	Nov 4	3	3	2	8	13	12	20	16	10	5	4	5
Avid	373	Nov 19	Nov 4	1	1	3	5	14	13	17	20	10	6	5	4
South Zone															
Casual	92	Dec 3	Dec 3	0	3	0	2	0	5	8	13	17	12	14	25
Avid	82	Dec 10	Dec 3	0	0	0	2	5	5	2	10	7	10	26	33
Statewide Survey Results (normal font) and Workshop Individual Survey Results (bold font) by Region															
North	408	Nov 12	Nov 3	4	3	6	16	22	16	13	12	4	1	1	1
	32	Nov 12	Nov 3	0	3	3	3	41	22	22	6	0	0	0	0
Central	314	Nov 19	Nov 4	2	2	7	9	14	14	17	16	8	5	5	3
	39	Nov 19	Nov 4	0	3	0	0	10	28	26	18	13	3	0	0
Upper Mississippi	204	Nov 12	Nov 3	3	3	8	10	17	15	17	15	6	3	1	1
	22	Nov 12	Nov 4	0	9	0	9	14	32	9	9	18	0	0	0
St. Charles Co.	243	Nov 12	Nov 3	3	3	4	9	19	16	21	12	5	3	2	1
	26	Nov 19	Nov 4	0	0	0	8	12	31	27	12	8	4	0	0
Other Middle	470	Nov 19	Nov 4	3	2	3	8	11	12	20	16	11	5	4	4
	55	Nov 19	Dec 1	0	0	4	4	9	27	13	22	13	2	7	0
Southeast	210	Nov 26	Dec 1	1	1	0	5	10	13	10	25	12	8	6	9
	116	Nov 19	Dec 1	0	0	0	1	6	24	27	23	9	1	8	2
Bootheel	122	Dec 10	Dec 3	0	0	0	2	2	2	7	11	8	10	24	34
	27	Dec 17	Dec 3	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	7	7	0	30	44
Barton Co.	15	Dec 3	Dec 2	0	7	0	0	7	20	0	0	7	13	33	13
	14	Dec 3	Dec 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	36	7	14	7	21
Southwest	27	Dec 3	Dec 2	0	0	0	7	4	7	7	11	30	4	11	19
	10	Nov 19	Nov 3	0	0	0	0	0	40	40	0	10	0	0	10
Other South	57	Dec 3	Dec 2	0	4	2	5	7	5	5	14	14	14	11	19
	13	Nov 26	Nov 4	0	0	0	0	29	0	29	14	0	14	7	7

*Casual duck hunters are defined as those who hunt between 1-10 days; avid duck hunters are defined as those who hunt more than 10 days.

**Shading indicates the most preferred 30-day season for each category of hunter.

Table 7. Zone boundary preferences by zone and by region hunted most.

		North/Middle Zone – West				North/Middle Zone – East			Middle/South Zone – Southeast					Middle/South Zone - SW		
Region	N	No Change	I-70	MO River	Other	No Change	I-70	Other	No Change	Hwy 60	Hwy 34	Hwy 72	Other	No change	Old zone line	Other
Statewide Survey Results by Zone																
<i>North Zone</i>																
Casual*	327	66	19	13	2	67	29	4	64	4	3	29	1	92	6	2
Avid*	296	61	20	18	1	68	26	6	60	3	5	32	1	90	4	6
<i>Middle Zone</i>																
Casual	237	66	15	17	2	69	29	2	52	9	13	25	1	82	14	5
Avid	223	62	20	15	3	70	25	4	49	14	12	23	2	82	10	9
<i>South Zone</i>																
Casual	49	71	17	8	4	68	23	9	40	19	15	23	4	73	14	12
Avid	58	69	8	23	0	71	17	13	47	14	17	22	0	75	15	10
Statewide Survey Results (normal font) and Workshop Individual Survey Results (bold font) by Region																
North	277 29	70 48	13 17	16 21	1 14											
Central	258 37	57 32	26 35	16 11	2 22											
Upper Mississippi	172 22					60 59	33 14	7 27								
St. Charles Co.	191 24					74 79	23 21	3								
Other Middle	321 38	59 58	22 26	17 13	2 3											
Southeast	185 113								37 41	18 19	19 13	24 21	1 6			
Bootheel	84 27								32 78	26 22	20	18	4			
Barton Co.	16 13													63 92	19 8	19
Southwest	22 10													77 10	23 90	
Other South	42 13													81 54	12 46	7

*Casual duck hunters are defined as those who hunt between 1-10 days; avid duck hunters are defined as those who hunt more than 10 days.

Table 8. Summary of small group preferences for opening dates of a 60-day season.

Workshop location	Number of groups	Opening dates											Prefers split season
		Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	
<i>North Zone</i>													
Chillicothe	3	1		1	1								
Columbia	5				1	2							2
St. Louis	4			4									
K.C.	3			2	1								
Total	15	1		7	3	2							2
<i>Middle Zone</i>													
Kansas City	4			1	3								
St. Louis	4				2	2							
Jackson	7				3	2.5	1.5						
Dexter	13				5	5	3						
Springfield	2			1		1							
Lamar	1				1								
Portageville	1				1								
Total	32			2	15	10.5	4.5						
<i>South Zone</i>													
Kansas City	1						1						
Springfield	2					1	1						
Lamar	3					2	1						
Jackson	3							2	1				
Portageville	2							2					
Total	11					3	3	4	1				

Table 9. Summary of small group preferences for opening dates of a 45-day season.

Workshop location	Number of groups	Opening dates											Prefers split season
		Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	
<i>North Zone</i>													
Chillicothe	3		1		1	1							
Columbia	3						2						1
St. Louis	4			1	3								
K.C.	3				1	1							1
Total	13		1	1	5	2	2						2
<i>Middle Zone</i>													
Kansas City	4			1	2	1							
St. Louis	4				1	1		2					
Jackson	7					2	4	1					
Dexter	12				1	6	3	1	1				
Springfield	2					1		1					
Lamar	1					1							
Portageville	1					1							
Total	31			1	4	13	7	5	1				
<i>South Zone</i>													
Kansas City	1					1							
Springfield	2						1		1				
Lamar	3				1		2						
Jackson	3							1		1	1		
Portageville	2								1	1			
Total	11				1	1	3	1	2	2	1		

Table 10. Summary of small group preferences for opening dates of a 30-day season.

Workshop location	Number of groups	Opening dates											Prefers split season
		Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	
<i>North Zone</i>													
Chillicothe	3		1		1			1					
Columbia	1					1							
St. Louis	4			1		3							
K.C.	3					2	1						
Total	11		1	1	1	6	1	1					
<i>Middle Zone</i>													
Kansas City	4					3		1					
St. Louis	4				1	2							1
Jackson	6				1		2	2	1				
Dexter	12				1	2	2	5	1		1		
Springfield	2					1		1					
Lamar	1					1							
Portageville	1						1						
Total	30				3	9	5	9	2		1		1
<i>South Zone</i>													
Kansas City	1							1					
Springfield	2						1				1		
Lamar	3					1		1	1				
Jackson	3								1	1		1	
Portageville	2										2		
Total	11					1	1	2	2	1	3	1	

Table 11. Summary of workshop small group preferences for zone boundaries.

Workshop location	Number of groups	Prefers no change	North Zone – West				North Zone - East		South Zone – East				South Zone - West		Prefers split with 2 zones
			I-70	MO River or Hwy 24	Hwy 36	Other	I-70	Other	Hwy 60	Hwy 34	Hwy 72	Other	Old zone line	Other	
Chillicothe	3	1		1	1										
Columbia	5	1.50			1										2.50
Kansas City	8	3	1	3		1									
St. Louis	8	4			1		2			1					
Jackson	10	3.87							1.37	0.25	4.50				
Dexter	13	6.67							2.80	2.33	0.20	1			
Springfield	4	2.75											1		0.25
Lamar	4	1.50										2.50			
Portageville	2	2													
Total	57	26.29	1	4	3	1	2		4.17	3.58	4.7	3.50	1		2.75

Table 12. Small Group Results – Columbia: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
Columbia #1 4 members	North	2 - shallow water 2 - shallow & deep water	2 - split season & 2 zones 2 - 3 zones	2 - no change 2 - 2 zones: I-70 as the boundary	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: Missing 30 Day: Missing	No	Reasons for 2 zones: More opportunity and easier to enforce.
Columbia #2 7 members	North	7 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/12-01/19 45 Day: No consensus 30 Day: No consensus	No	
Columbia #3 4 members	North	1 - shallow water 2 - deep water 1 - shallow & deep waters	Split season & 2 zones	I-70 as the boundary	60 Day: 11/05-11/12, 11/19-1/10 60 Day: 11/12-01/10 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: Missing	Unknown	Would like to see the season later.
Columbia #4 4 members	North	2 - shallow water 2 - corn fields	3 zones	Hwy 36 as the boundary	60 Day: 11/12-01/10 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	Unknown	
Columbia #5 5 members	North	5 - shallow water	Split season & 2 zones	Hwy 54 & Hwy 72 as the boundaries	60 Day: 11/12- 11/19, 11/26-01/26 45 Day: 11/12-11/19, 12/05-01/10 30 Day: Missing	Unknown	

Note: Split options were not included when groups only recommended one season length.

Table 13. Small Group Results – Jackson: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone rferences
Jackson - # 1 7 members	Middle	3 - shallow water 2 - shallow & deep waters 2 - unknown	3 zones	Hwy 72	60 Day: 11/26-01/24 45 Day: 12/10-01/23 30 Day: 12/10-01/08	Yes	
Jackson - # 2 4 members	Middle	1 - shallow water 2 - deep water 1 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones	Hwy 72	60 Day: 11/04-01/03 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	Yes	Would like Clear Water Reservoir and Black Water in South Zone.
Jackson # 3 6 members	Middle	6 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/04-01/03 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: Unknown	Yes	
Jackson # 4 3 members	South	3 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 12/01-01/29 45 Day: 12/17-01/29 30 Day: 12/30-01/29	Yes	Would like season to open as late as possible.
Jackson # 5 5 members	Middle	5 - shallow water	3 zones	Hwy 72	60 Day: 11/26-01/24 45 Day: 11/26-01/09 30 Day: 12/03-01/01	Yes	CA's wouldn't be so crowded. Temp's have been warmer.
Jackson # 6 8 members	Middle	8 - shallow water	3 zones	3 - no change 3 - Hwy 60 2 - Hwy 34	60 Day: (4) 11/12-01/10 (4) 11/19-01/17 45 Day: 11/26-01/09 30 Day: 12/03-01/01	No	Could hunt Duck Creek when flooded. Other reasons were personal and not based on habitat.
Jackson # 7	Middle	6 - shallow water	3 zones	Hwy 72	60 Day: 11/12-01/10 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 11/19-12/18	Yes	Observing ducks later in the season.
Jackson # 8	Middle	6 - shallow water	3 zones	Hwy 60	60 Day: 11/19-01/17 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	No	More opportunity to hunt the South Zone -simpler boundary.
Jackson # 9	Middle	7 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/19-12/18	Yes	First migration around 10/15. Risk freeze up. Otter Slough setting records.
Jackson # 10	Middle	8 - shallow water	3 zones	4 - Hwy 72 4 - No change	60 Day: 11/15-01/15 45 Day: 11/22-01/08 30 Day: 11/05-12/24	No	

Note: Split options were not included when groups only recommended one season length.

Table 14. Small Group Results – Dexter: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
Dexter #1 5 members	Middle	5 - shallow water	3 zones	Hwy 60	60 Day: 11/12-01/10 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/19-12/18	Yes	Trend of warmer temps over last 9 years. Prefer late-season hunting.
Dexter #2 6 members	Middle	6 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/07-01/05 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	Yes	Current zone and migrations fit how we hunt. Weather is favorable.
Dexter #3 4 members	Middle	2 - shallow water 2 - deep water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: unknown 30 Day: unknown	Yes	
Dexter #4 6 members	Middle	6 - shallow water	3 zones	Hwy 60	60 Day: 11/11-01/09 45 Day: 11/11-12/14 30 Day: 11/11-12/09	Yes	More opportunity to hunt at Duck Creek and Otter Slough. Like to hunt later.
Dexter #5 6 members	Middle	6 - shallow water	3 zones	Hwy 34	60 Day: 11/12-01/10 45 Day: 11/26-01/09 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	Yes	Keep Conservation Area dates together.
Dexter #6 5 members	Middle	5 - shallow water	3 zones	Current zone with Hwy 25	60 Day: 11/19-01/17 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	Yes	
Dexter #7 6 members	Middle	5 - shallow water 1 - deep water	3 zones	4 - No change 2 - Hwy 34	60 Day: 11/19-01/17 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	No	
Dexter #8 4 members	Middle	4 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/15-01/15 45 Day: 12/01-01/15 30 Day: 12/15-01/15	Yes	Prevent overcrowding public areas. Opportunity to hunt 2 areas.
Dexter #9 4 members	Middle	4 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	Yes	Spreads out pressure. Maximizes opportunity. Provides rest areas after Middle Zone closes.
Dexter #10 5 members	Middle South	5 - shallow water	3 zones	4 - Hwy 60 1 - Hwy 72	60 Day: 11/19-01/15 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 11/19-12/18	No	Prefer late-season mallards Eastern Stoddard is different than west . 2 zones provide more opportunity.

Table 14. Small Group Results – Dexter: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates (continued).

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
Dexter #11 6 members	Middle	4 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep water 1 - unknown	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 12/03-01/01	Yes	Maximize hunting opportunity when ducks are present.
Dexter #12 4 members	Middle	4 - shallow water	3 zones	Hwy 34	60 Day: 11/12-01/10 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	Yes	Late flooding of timber at Duck Creek. Prefer late season .
Dexter #13 5 members	Middle	5 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/05-12/19 30 Day: 11/05-12/04	Yes	

Table 15. Small Group Results – St. Louis: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
St. Louis # 1 9 members	Middle	7 - shallow water 2 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones	Hwy 34	60 Day: 11/15-01/14 45 Day: 11/23-01/06 30 Day: 11/30-12/30	Unknown	
St. Louis # 2 4 members	North	4 - shallow water	3 zones	I-70	60 Day: 10/29-12/27 45 Day: 11/05-12/19 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	Yes	St. Charles in North Zone to avoid freeze-up, Eagle Bluffs in Middle Zone, simpler boundary.
St. Louis # 3 3 members	North	2 - shallow water 1 - unknown	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 10/29-12/27 45 Day: 10/29-12/12 30 Day: 10/29-11/27	Yes	
St. Louis # 4 14 members	9 - North 5 - Middle	9 - shallow water 1 - deep water 2 - shallow & deep water 2 - unknown	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 10/29-12/27 45 Day: 11/05-12/19 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	No	
St. Louis # 5 10 members	North	7 - shallow water 2 - deep water	3 zones	North Zone - Hwy 36 South Zone - Hwy 54 to Hwy 50	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/05-12/19 30 Day: 11/05-12/04	No	Better hunting. More ducks.
St. Louis # 6 9 members	Middle	5 - shallow water 4 - unknown	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/15-01/15 45 Day: 11/26-01/09 30 Day: 11/18-11/28, 12/17-01/15	Yes	Timing of duck arrival. Missouri is big enough for 3 zones.
St. Louis # 7 7 members	North	4 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters 2 - unknown	3 zones	I-70	60 Day: 11/04-01/02 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/12-11/28, 12/03-12/15	No	Eagle Bluffs in Middle Zone MTC in North Zone. Avoid early freeze-up at MTC.
St. Louis # 8 4 members	North	3 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/01-12/30 45 Day: 11/06-12/20 30 Day: 11/15-12/14	No	Very satisfied with current zones. Can easily hunt 2 zones.

Note: Split options were not included when groups only recommended one season length.

Table 16. Small Group Results – Springfield: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
Springfield #1 5 members	South (portion formerly in Middle Zone)	4 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones	Zone boundary in place 5 years ago	60 Day: 11/01-12/30 45 Day: 11/10-12/25 30 Day: 11/15-12/15	Yes	Region has mainly shallow water. Earlier dates coincide with migration periods.
Springfield #2 7 members	South	1 - shallow water 3 - deep water 2 - shallow & deep waters 1 - unknown	3 zones	No change	(South Zone Dates) 60 Day: 11/11-01/10 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 11/19-12/18	Unknown	Current zone boundary is acceptable if the south zone season dates are earlier.
Springfield #3 5 members	Middle	2 - shallow water 2 - shallow & deep waters 1 - unknown	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/12-01/10 45 Day: 11/26-01/09 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	Yes	Satisfied with the current zone boundary.
Springfield #4 6 members	South	2 - shallow water 1 - deep water 3 - shallow & deep waters	4 - 3 zones 1 - 2 zones with split	No change	60 Day: 11/19-01/17 45 Day: 12/03-01/16 30 Day: 12/17-01/15	No	Live and hunt local. Ducks come later.

Note: Split options were not included when groups only recommended one season length.

Table 17. Small Group Results – Lamar: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
Lamar # 1 6 members	South	4 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters 1 - unknown	3 zones	Zone boundary in place 5 years ago	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	No	Region has mainly shallow water. Earlier dates coincide with migration periods.
Lamar # 2 4 members	South	3 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones	2 - boundary in place 5 years ago 2 - no change	60 Day: 11/12-01/10 45 Day: 11/05-12/19 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	No	Those wanting earlier dates indicated prairie lakes freeze-up.
Lamar # 3 4 members	South	4 - shallow water	3 zones	Zone boundary that was in place 5 years ago	60 Day: 11/10-01/08 45 Day: 11/18-01/01 30 Day: 11/24-12/23	Yes	Allow prairie hunters to hunt before freeze-up. Stockton would remain in South Zone.
Lamar # 4 6 members	South	3 - shallow water 2 - deep water 1 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones	No change – if earlier dates	60 Day: 11/19-01/17 45 Day: 11/19-01/02 30 Day: 12/03-01/01	No	

Note: Split options were not included when groups only recommended one season length.

Table 18. Small Group Results – Kansas City: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
Kansas City #1 3 members	Middle	1 - shallow water 2 - unknown	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/04-01/03 45 Day: 11/04-12/18 30 Day: 11/11-12/10	Yes	
Kansas City #2 5 members	3 - North 2 - Middle	4 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters	4 - 3 zones 1 - split season & 2 zones	Missouri River in Middle Zone Truman Reservoir & Lake Ozark in South Zone	60 Day: 10/29-12/27 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	No	Would put Missouri River and Grand Pass in the Middle Zone.
Kansas City #3 4 members	Middle	3 - shallow water 1 - unknown	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/05-12/19 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	Yes	Happy with where the zone is now – don't want another change.
Kansas City #4 5 members	3 - North 2 - Middle	5 - shallow water	3 zones	Hwy 24 to Hwy 10 to Hwy 116	60 Day: 11/01-12/30 45 Day: 11/08-12/22 30 Day: 11/10-12/08	No	Include Smithville Reservoir and Missouri River in the Middle Zone.
Kansas City #5 6 members	Middle	3 - shallow water 2 - shallow & deep waters 1 - missing	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/01-01/01 45 Day: 10/29-12/12 30 Day: 11/12-12/11	Yes	Happy with where the zone is now.
Kansas City #6 5 members	North	3 - shallow water 2 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones Split season & 2 zones in a 45-day season	I-70	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 10/29-11/11, 11/20-12/19 30 Day: 11/20-12/19	Yes	Very defined line. It would provide more local opportunity.
Kansas City #7 4 members	Middle	3 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones	Hwy 52 to Co. Rd. A to Hwy 13	(South Zone dates) 60 Day: 11/18-01/17 45 Day: 12/03-01/17 30 Day: 11/25-12/25	Yes	Osage River valley stays warmer than surrounding area. Truman, Osage River, and Montrose all provide deep water habitat that stays open later.
Kansas City #8 5 members	2 - North 3 - Middle	4 - shallow water 1 - unknown	3 zones	Missouri River	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/09-01/01 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	Yes	

Note: Split options were not included when groups only recommended one season length.

Table 19. Small Group Results – Chillicothe: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
Chillicothe #1 5 members	North	2 - shallow water 1 - deep water 2 - unknown	3 zones	Hwy 36	(North Zone) 60 Day: 10/15-12/13 45 Day: 10/22-12/05 30 Day: 10/22-11/20 (Middle Zone) 60 Day: 10/29-12/27 45 Day: 11/05-12/19 30 Day: 11/05-12/04	Unknown	Would have earlier season in North Zone and later season in the Middle Zone.
Chillicothe #2 6 members	North	3 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters 2 - cornfields	3 zones	Hwy 10 - Hwy 24	60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/26-12/25	No	Ducks arrive in North Missouri before they reach the Missouri River. This zone boundary would be easy to identify.
Chillicothe #3 8 members	North	5 - shallow water 1 - shallow & deep waters 1 - cornfields	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/01-12/30 45 Day: 11/05-12/19 30 Day: 11/05-12/04	No	

Note: Split options were not included when groups only recommended one season length.

Table 20. Small Group Results – Portageville: Recommendations for season structure, zone boundaries, and season dates.

Small group	Zone hunted	Habitat most hunted	Season structure preferences	Zone boundary preferences	Season date preferences	Reached consensus	Rationale for season date and zone preferences
Portageville #1 6 members	3 - Middle 3 - Middle	4 - shallow water 2 - shallow & deep waters	3 zones	No change	(Middle Zone) 60 Day: 11/05-01/03 45 Day: 11/12-12/26 30 Day: 11/19-12/18 (South Zone) 60 Day: 11/26-01/24 45 Day: 12/10-01/23 30 Day: 12/17-01/15	Unknown	Mild weather is good for field hunting.
Portageville #2 6 members	South	6 - shallow water	3 zones	No change	60 Day: 11/25-01/25 45 Day: 12/03-01/16 30 Day: 12/17-01/15	Yes	Perfect for the South Zone.

Note: Split options were not included when groups only recommended one season length.